Rhodora

JOURNAL OF

THE NEW ENGLAND BOTANICAL CLUB

Vol. 16. September, 1914. No. 189.

MARIA L. OWEN.

Walter Deane.

(With portrait.)

Another botanist long associated with the study of New England plants has passed away, and we mourn the loss of one always keenly devoted to her favorite pursuit and a painstaking student of the Nantucket flora. Those of us who were privileged to enjoy her warm friendship will always miss her kindly words and enthusiastic correspondence. Yet we must be grateful that this friend and fellow student reached a ripe old age and enjoyed to the last good health, while she made her valuable contributions on the New England flora.

Mrs. Maria L. Owen, as the botanical world always knew her, died in Plandome, Long Island, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. James Sullivan, on June 8, 1913, at the advanced age of eighty-eight years. She was born on the Island of Nantucket, Massachusetts, on February 13, 1825. Her full name was Maria Louise Tallant,[1] and she was the daughter of Eben Weld Tallant and Nancy Coffin. Through her father she was descended from Hugh Tallant, the early New England settler from Ireland, mentioned by Whittier in the "Sycamores," and from the prominent Weld family of Roxbury, Massachusetts. Through her mother she traced her descent from Tristram Coffin and others of the early settlers of Nantucket.

Through the maternal branch of her grandfather Coffin, Mrs. Owen

[1] Miss Helen A. Gardner writes me from Nantucket under date of August 1, 1914; "The only record of Mrs. Owen's full name is a copy of The Census of 1830. There it is given Maria Louise Tallant. Age 5 years." Mrs. Henry P. Tallant writes that Mrs. Owen always spelled her middle name Louisa.

was related to Benjamin Franklin and Daniel Webster and she related the following amusing story to the writer in a letter dated December 22, 1897. After saying that it was not necessary to thank her every time she sent a trifling specimen or botanical note she continued, "I recall my cousin (somewhat removed) Benjamin Franklin's suggestion to his father to ask a blessing over the whole barrel of pork instead of seeking it all winter long for the portions that appeared on the table,— an example that you can follow. The Doctor is not my own first cousin, because I live too late in the centuries, but two of my ancestors, one on my grandfather's side and the other on my grandmother's, stood in exactly that relation to him." Mrs. Owen had a keen sense of humor that constantly cropped out in her letters.

In regard to some of her ancestors she writes under date of November 17, 1895, "I am eligible to the same societies [Colonial Dames, etc.] on other grounds. Four pilgrim fathers and mothers, and back of them John Robinson, the Leyden pastor, ministers and elders in Boston and Salem of the very earliest settlers, and a very near relationship to Benj. Franklin are some of the qualifications I should put forth. I am content for the present, however, with being a Daughter of the American Revolution."

She attended the Nantucket "Coffin School," founded by Admiral Sir Isaac Coffin, her grandfather's cousin. It was a kind of high-school devoted to the classics and incidentally free to all members of the Coffin family, but a private school to all others. It was endowed by the Admiral and is still in existence, though its course of instruction has been changed. Mrs. Owen's grandfather Coffin was the first president of the trustees of the school. She also attended the private school of her uncle, Rev. Cyrus Pierce, and, in 1838, when the High School was opened, with him as principal, Maria Tallant was one of the thirty-five pupils.

Mrs. Owen's early life was passed in Nantucket and she seems to have always been fond of the flowers about her. Her aunt, Mrs. Pierce, was a good botanist, and it was natural that, surrounded by such influences the child should imbibe the taste for that science. Her mother and her sisters were all women of marked ability and of botanical tastes and the daughter Maria with her remarkable memory and scientific turn of mind went farther than her predecessors. Her interest never flagged throughout her long life. Her sister-in-law, Mrs. Henry P. Tallant of Philadelphia, very near and dear to Mrs.

Owen, writes, "Maria might very well have inherited a taste for outdoor life from old Hugh. He evidently was fond of trees for he planted the row of sycamores at his home in Haverill [Massachusetts], and all the Tallants I ever knew loved nature and were sportsmen and outdoors people. One cousin at Nantucket scoured the waters there for sea animals for an aquarium. The Tallants, also, had a quiet persistence, so that once started on a study they never gave it up, but would keep on in spite of all discouragements."

In regard to her strong constitution and freedom from those physical ailments that hamper the botanist who must be much afield, Mrs. Owen writes on March 28, 1905, "I owe my almost unbroken health to a grandmother and two grandfathers who lived in the same fortunate condition to the ages of 76, 79 and 86 respectively, and still more perhaps to the great-grandfather who lived to be 108, and in his old age could put his hands on the near horse of two standing side by side and leap over them both. To him also I doubtless owe largely the happy disposition and the elastic spirits that have come right up after many of the trials that seem to be appointed for all, for he

> "Delved by day and sang by night
> With a hand that never wearied,
> And a heart forever light,"

and passed through his long life

> "With [his] eyes brimful of laughter,
> And [his] mouth as full of song."

Owing so much to my forebears I am trying to be a good ancestress myself, and pass along the blessings I have received."

Her letters teem with deep devotion to her native home and are full of tender love for the flora of the island, and, though she left the spot at a comparatively early age, she never ceased to regard Nantucket as her true home, and constant were the visits she made there to her dear island friends.

At one time Mrs. Owen taught in the school of George B. Emerson in Boston, and in 1845, 1846, and 1847 she was in South Boston teaching at the Perkins Institution for the Blind when Dr. Samuel G. Howe was superintendent. It was at the latter place that she met her future husband, Dr. Varillas L. Owen, who was Dr. Howe's secretary. Later she had a private school in Nantucket, which she left to become an assistant in the Nantucket High School.

On November 23, 1853, Maria Tallant was married in Nantucket to Dr. Owen and they went at once to Springfield, Massachusetts. Her life here of fifty years or more was one of continued activity. For years a Shakespeare Society met at her house and it was her delight to read and discuss the works of the great poet and other writers of note. During a portion of her life in Springfield, Mrs. Owen was actively engaged in teaching and I am glad to give the testimony of Miss Caroline Gray Soule of Brookline, Massachusetts, who was one of her pupils at that time. She says, "In the 'early seventies' Mrs. Owen taught botany and French in one private school in Springfield, and, two years later, astronomy and physical geography in another. She was a most interesting and inspiring teacher especially in botany, astronomy, and physical geography, which were to her all alive and active, not mere masses of scientific facts to be committed to memory.

"The growth and habits of a plant, its power of adaptation to environment, &c, were far more to her than the best mounted specimen, though she valued the herbarium for its practical uses.

"She knew how to ask questions, as well as to answer them, and to answer her questions satisfactorily to her was training in accuracy of observation, exactness of description, and use of English. No slipshod expression ever passed uncriticised, no careless observation or presentation of facts was left uncorrected in her class. She made her pupils really feel the scientific value of truth."

The Women's Club, founded in 1884, was another organization in which she was a prominent and efficient worker, its president, and later its honorary president. She writes on November 9, 1893, "From November through April our Women's Club takes much of my time; anything to be done for that takes precedence of almost everything else. I am president for the tenth year."

It is, however, of her botanical work that I shall speak especially. She was a ready writer and contributed many articles on botanical subjects to various papers, while the journal Rhodora occasionally received contributions from her pen. The Springfield Botanical Society, founded in 1876, owes its existence to Mrs. Owen and she has written a very bright account of its beginnings in the Thirtieth Annual Report of the Society, published April 19, 1907. After holding for many years the office of president, she retired from that onerous position and remained its honorary president till her death. Its members can testify to her zeal and efficiency in promoting its interests.

Whatever Mrs. Owen undertook she entered into with all her heart and she never failed to inspire those with whom she came into contact with some of her own enthusiasm. She was blessed with many friends, all ready and anxious to learn from her and to aid her in whatever way it was possible. And so she had many keen helpers in her various undertakings, and this was especially the case in her studies of the Nantucket flora, with which botanists in general, and especially those not personally acquainted with her will chiefly associate her; and indeed those of us who enjoyed a long acquaintance with her fully realize what a large share of her botanical activities the fair island claimed. A work on this subject had long been planned, and, for many years, she patiently and enthusiastically covered the island in her researches, referring all doubtful species to those in authority and enlisting under her banner those botanical friends who could visit the island and scour its moors and ponds for species new to her list, and venture into treacherous bogs where Mrs. Owen said she could not be expected to go. In this way many an added species was found and welcomed by her with her customary enthusiasm. To those who were privileged to enjoy a long and friendly correspondence with her it will always be a source of great gratification to recall the lively interest that each letter showed at a new discovery or extension of range. "Ecce Tillaea simplex!" was the way she began a letter on August 27, 1894, to the writer, when she announced the rediscovery of this choice plant in Nantucket three days before by Mrs. Mabel P. Robinson.[1] It had there remained hidden from botanists for sixty-five years, ever since William Oakes reported it in 1829.

Mrs. Owen's principal contributions to botany, outside of the various articles that have appeared in our journals from time to time, are two in number both relating to the island. The first is a "Catalogue of Plants growing without Cultivation on the Island of Nantucket" in Edward K. Godfrey's "The Island of Nantucket, its history, people, agriculture, botany, conchology and geology with maps to the town and island," published by Lee and Shepard in Boston in 1882. It is a small guide book of 365 pages and is extremely interesting, but we are especially concerned with the botanical part. This occupies pages 38 to 47 inclusive and consists of an introduction and a list. As the work is rare and scarcely known to many of the botanists of to-day,

[1] Botanical Gazette, xx, 80–81, 1895.

and as the introduction is of special interest, I venture to quote it in full. Mrs. Owen says, "At Mr. Godfrey's request, I have with much pleasure prepared the following catalogue. It is far from complete, being based upon collections made over thirty years ago, when I had made no study of the grasses and sedges, and when I had no thoughts of publishing. Still, in this imperfect form it will be of use to botanists, and the number of plants rare in New England which it contains, shows what pleasing discoveries are probably still to be made by exhaustive explorations.

"I hope to bring out, as soon as I have sufficient material, a more complete list to be published by itself, with such notes on the rarer plants as may be of interest. For this I ask the co-operation of all botanists, resident or visiting on the island, and I shall be extremely obliged for names and localities of additional species. To make the list more serviceable and authentic, it is desirable to have specimens of the new discoveries, for preservation in an herbarium of the island plants, which, if formed, will be freely accessible to botanists.

"Information is particularly desired about *Andromeda Mariana*, *Habenaria ciliaris*, and the *Tillaea*, *Calluna*, *Erica*, *Onosmodium*, *Mertensia*, *Ceratophyllum*, *Cypripedium*, and *Chara* of the catalogue. Some of these are represented so far by one single plant; and of others reported by older botanists, no one now living knows the locality.

"I am under obligations to several friends for help in this work, and must mention especially that I owe the list of algae to Mr. F. S. Collins, who drew it up from specimens principally collected by himself and Mr. L. L. Dame of Medford.

"The few miscellaneous cryptogams with which the list closes appeal to friendly specialists for re-enforcements; without such aid they will have to go into the next edition as lonely as they are now.

Maria L. Owen."

Then follows the Catalogue of Plants. They are listed in systematic order by their scientific names only, and without comments. There are just 500 species and varieties, and one form. This is certainly very creditable when we consider that the list was founded mainly on species collected before 1852 when Mrs. Owen was about twenty-five years old. It was the result chiefly of the enthusiastic study of plants in her younger days at a time when botanists and botanical centers where difficult species could be determined were fewer in number.

In 1888 appeared the work Mrs. Owen had so earnestly been preparing, "A Catalogue of Plants growing without cultivation in the County of Nantucket, Mass.," published in Northampton, Massachusetts, by the Gazette Printing Company. The six years that intervened between these two publications were busy ones. She enlisted many botanists to aid her in securing additions to her list and further information in regard to known species; she carried on a large correspondence; and she sent her doubtful species to proper authorities for accurate determination. It was the good fortune of the writer to witness much of this enthusiasm in his visits to the Island to aid the cause, in company with Judge J. R. Churchill of Dorchester, Massachusetts, and Rev. Dr. Thomas Morong of Ashland, Massachusetts. It is a work that reflects much credit upon its author and will always remain a true representation of the knowledge of the flora of the Island at that time.

The Catalogue contains a preface giving a description of the Island and of the botanical work done upon it and of the botanists who had aided her. The annotated list covers 75 pages, embracing 787 species and varieties, and one form, and includes a list of marine algae. This is an increase of nearly 300 over the 1882 list, while the notes accompanying the species lend added interest and information to the work. In this list Mrs. Owen was enabled to report *Onosmodium virginianum* and *Ceratophyllum demersum* from authentic specimens, discovered since the publication of the former list where the names were cited on the authority of President Hitchcock of Amherst fifty years before. It is to be regretted that Mrs. Owen did not make a complete herbarium of the plants represented in her list, but the species were verified always with great care, and the more uncommon ones were always preserved in some collections. She writes on January 15, 1887, that specimens scattered through herbaria are her authorities for the Flora. After its publication Mrs. Owen carefully kept track of the additional species that were discovered from time to time, the segregates that were made, the extensions of range, etc., and she always meant to publish these data, but advancing years compelled a relaxation in this pleasant but strenuous work.[1] Her botanical interests were broad and her trips to Europe and in her own neighborhood were enriched by her interest in the plants about her. Many a rarity she sent to her friends as the result of these excursions.

[1] The Flora of Nantucket is being published by Mr. E. P. Bicknell in the numbers of the Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club.

Dr. Owen died in 1897, but Mrs. Owen continued to reside in Springfield till 1907 when she moved to the home of her daughter in Plandome, Long Island. Here she lived till her death. It was the fading away of a happy old age, and the end came on a bright morning with the room flooded with sunshine, which she always loved, and filled with iris, columbine and corn flowers. She was a woman of strong faith and she lived true to the motto of her mother's family, "Post tenebris speramus lumen de lumine," which she loved to translate, "After the darkness we hope for light from the *source* of light."

Mrs. Owen had two children, Walter L. Owen, architect, deceased, and Amelia, wife of Dr. James Sullivan, who survives her.

In preparing this paper I wish to acknowledge the kind assistance of Mr. F. Schuyler Mathews of Cambridge, Massachusetts, Miss Caroline G. Soule of Brookline, Massachusetts, and Mrs. Henry P. Tallant of Philadelphia. Acknowledgments are also extended to the Springfield Botanical Society and the Springfield Art Museum for the loan of the plate for the portrait accompanying this article.

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS.

THE VARIATIONS OF RANUNCULUS CYMBALARIA.

M. L. FERNALD.

Ranunculus Cymbalaria Pursh, originally described from the saline marshes of Onondaga Lake, New York, is found in saline habitats in the northern or cooler areas of North America and Asia. In America it extends southward along the coasts to New Jersey and California and through the interior to western New York, Illinois, Texas and central Mexico; and it reappears in South America on the high Andes from Ecuador to Argentina (*R. tridentatus*, var. *minor* HBK.).

Throughout the greater portion of its range the species seems to be essentially uniform: a fleshy, strictly glabrous plant with small flowers (6–9 mm. broad) having the subequal sepals and petals 2–4 mm. long; the stamens in one or two rows and with subglobose anthers; and the head of young carpels 1.5–5 mm. high during anthesis (before the falling of the last petals and stamens). In this plant, which is the characteristic coastwise and northern form of the spe-

cies, the fruiting head is very variable in length (2.5–13 mm.) and the strongly ribbed achenes are prominently beaked and ordinarily almost stipitate.

In the more arid region of the Rocky Mountains and the Great Basin, however,— from Assiniboia, Montana and Idaho south to south-central Mexico and west into Washington, Oregon and California — the plant ordinarily has heavier foliage and larger flowers (1–2 cm. broad) and departs in a number of less conspicuous tendencies from true *R. Cymbalaria* of our more humid regions. In this large-flowered Rocky Mountain extreme the young petioles or the peduncles are often pilose; the sepals and petals are 4–9 mm. long, the stamens commonly in 3–5 rows and with slightly elongate anthers; the head of young carpels is more elongate than in *R. Cymbalaria*, 3.5–11 mm. long in anthesis, but the fruiting head is less variable in length, 7–12 mm. long; and the achenes are usually paler in color, less strongly ribbed than in *R. Cymbalaria* and with less prominent beaks and broader bases.

These characters, though clearly marking in their aggregate the large-flowered plant as different from the small-flowered type, are all variable and it does not seem possible to separate the plant specifically from *Ranunculus Cymbalaria*; but as a pronounced geographic variety it seems worthy of recognition. The plant is *R. tridentatus* HBK., var. *major* [*us*] HBK.[1] *R. tridentatus* was defined as consisting of two varieties. The first, *α minor*, with "Flores erecti, magnitudine *R. arvensis*," coming from "*prope Lactacunga Quitensium* (*alt.* 1490 *hex.*), *inter saxa punicea*," as shown by several sheets from the Andes, is scarcely separable from *R. Cymbalaria* and it is so treated by R. E. Fries in his contribution *Zur Kenntniss der alpinen Flora im nördlichen Argentinien*. The second variety, *β major*, with "Flores erecti, magnitudine floris *R. Flammulae*" and coming from "*prope Carpio Mexicanorum, ad lacum S. Christobal, alt.* 1180 *hex.*," is well represented by material from the Federal District of Mexico, Durango, San Luis Potosi and Coahuila, and is the large-flowered plant of our Rocky Mountain district. In view of the publication of *R. Cymbalaria*, var. *major* Hook. f. & Thomson [2] from Tibet it is undesirable to create confusion by transferring to *R. Cymbalaria* the earlier *R. tridentatus*, var. *major* HBK.; so that another name for the latter plant is proposed.

[1] HBK., Nov. Gen. et Sp. Pl. v, 42 (1821).
[2] Hook. f. & Thomson, Fl. Ind. i. 30 (1855).

Another variant of *Ranunculus Cymbalaria* which does not seem to have been recognized is the pubescent extreme of the small-flowered plant. In all accounts, *R. Cymbalaria* is described as glabrous, and in the more saline habitats it certainly is so; but in the interior regions it is quite as often pilose on the petioles or peduncles and this pubescent form is sometimes found on fresh soils near the coast.

The smallest extreme of the glabrous *Ranunculus Cymbalaria*, Hooker's var. *alpinus*,[1] "minor, foliis apice tridentatis, scapo unifloro" seems to be merely a dwarfed extreme such as can be found in unfavorable habitats nearly throughout the range.

The two noteworthy variants above discussed may be called

RANUNCULUS CYMBALARIA Pursh, forma **hebecaulis**, n. f., petiolis pedunculisque plus minusve pilosis; floribus 6–9 mm. latis.— In apparently less alkaline habitats than the glabrous plant. QUEBEC: moist hollows in gravelly beach, Carleton, July 21, 1904, *Collins & Fernald*. PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND: wet mossy spots with *Eriophorum angustifolium*, *Smilacina trifolia*, etc., near Cape Wolf, July 3, 1914, *Fernald & St. John*. HUDSON BAY REGION: *Burke*. ONTARIO: shore of Georgian Bay, Collingwood, August 28, 1908, *N. Tripp*. MINNESOTA: Willmar, Kandiyohi Co., July, 1892, *W. D. Frost*. NORTH DAKOTA: wet prairies, Leeds, June 6 and July 10, 1898, *J. Lunell*. KANSAS: Syracuse, Hamilton Co., alt. 3500 ft., July 13, 1893, *C. H. Thompson*, no. 108. TEXAS: along waters, Canyon, August 7, 1903, *J. Reverchon*, no. 3702. MANITOBA: Lake Winnipeg Valley, 1857, *Bourgeau*. ALBERTA: Banff, alt. 4500 ft., June 11, 1906, *Butters & Rosendahl*, no. 1339 (TYPE in Gray Herb.). IDAHO: around springs, alt. 3500 ft., Squaw Butte, Boise Co., August 18, 1911, *J. A. Clark*, no. 268.

R. CYMBALARIA, var. **saximontanus**, n. nom. *R. tridentatus* HBK., var. *major* HBK., Nov. Gen. et Sp. Pl. v. 42 (1821), not *R. Cymbalaria*, var. *major* Hook. f. & Thomson, Fl. Ind. i. 30 (1855). Very fleshy, rather large: petioles and peduncles more or less pilose: blades orbicular, ovate or oblong, 1–3.5 cm. long: peduncles 3–20 cm. long, 1–6-flowered, usually pilose: flower 1–2 cm. broad: sepals and petals 4–9 mm. long: stamens commonly in 3–5 rows; anthers ellipsoid: head of young carpels 3.5–11 mm. long in anthesis; fruiting head 7–12 mm. long: achenes mostly pale, faintly or prominently ribbed, commonly rounded at base.— Arid districts of the Rocky Mountain region from Saskatchewan to south-central Mexico, west into Washington, Oregon and California.— SASKATCHEWAN: *Bourgeau*. MONTANA: West Gallatin River, June 9, 1883, *Scribner*, no. 4a; Brick Glade, Belgrade, May 31, 1901, *E. J. Moore*. WYOMING: wet flats, Laramie, July 19, 1900, *A. Nelson*, no. 7629; wet places about the springs, Mammoth Hot Springs,

[1] Hook. Fl. Bor.-Am. i. 11 (1829).

July 4, 1899, *A. & E. Nelson*, no. 5663. COLORADO: moist ground near river, Fort Collins, May 15, 1894, *Crandall*, no. 22; Aboles, June, 1899, *C. F. Baker*, no. 328. NEW MEXICO: near Espanola, May 17, 1897, *Heller*, no. 3544; Kingston, May 19, 1905, *Metcalfe*, no. 1601; Mangas Springs, June 11, 1903, *Metcalfe*, no. 128. IDAHO: wet banks, Payette, *Macbride*, no. 869; loamy slopes, Boulder Creek, July 31, 1910, *Macbride*, no. 503; moist banks, New Plymouth, June 15, 1910, *Macbride*, no. 246. UTAH: Wahsatch Mts., May, 1869, *Watson*, no. 20; Modena, June 2, 1902, *Goodding*, no. 1011; Salt Lake City, June, 1904, *A. O. Garrett*. NEVADA: Carson City, *A. Gray;* Soda Lake, August, 1867, *Watson*, no. 20. ARIZONA: river bottom, Boyles, *Goodding*, no. 516. COAHUILA: Saltillo, May, 1898, *Palmer*, no. 178. SAN LUIS POTOSI: region of San Luis Potosi, 1878, *Parry & Palmer*, no. 3. DURANGO: Durango, 1896, *Palmer*, no. 96. MEXICO: near Mexico, May 15, 1865–66, *Bourgeau*, no. 2. CALIFORNIA: Bear Valley, San Bernardino Mts., June, 1886, *Parish*, no. 1788; Silver Canyon east of Laws, May 9, 1906, *Heller*, no. 8213. OREGON: near Mitchell, May 15, 1885, *Howell*, no. 322. WASHINGTON: near Sprague, Lincoln Co., June 3, 1893, *Sandberg & Leiberg*, no. 135; Rattlesnake Mts., June 15, 1901, *Cotton*, no. 414.

GRAY HERBARIUM.

NEW ENGLAND DISTRIBUTION OF ILEX OPACA AND ILEX GLABRA.

CLARENCE H. KNOWLTON.

IN travelling over southeastern Massachusetts by winter and summer, I have been much interested in the detailed distribution of the two evergreen *Ilices*, *Ilex opaca* and *I. glabra*, which somehow seem quite exotic among our other New England plants. These two species, along with *Chamaedaphne*, the Kalmias, and the isolated *Rhododendron maximum*, are our only conspicuous broad-leaved evergreens.

According to Robinson's Flora of Essex County there were a few scattered trees of *Ilex opaca* on Cape Ann at Rockport, but these have been extinct since 1880, according to J. H. Sears, RHODORA x. 43. This is an isolated station, however, for the general range of the species is from Quincy, Holbrook, Hingham and Cohasset south to

Buzzard's Bay, Naushon Island, Dartmouth and Westport with Bridgewater, Taunton, Somerset and Swansea for inland limits. In some of the towns in this area it is abundant and fruits heavily; in others there are only scattering, badly-hacked trees with sterile flowers. The best trees I have seen are in Marion and Mattapoisett, the largest about 2.5 dm. in diameter.

On Cape Cod it is known at Bourne (Cataumet), Sandwich and Barnstable. I came across the last station, near Centreville, last summer, and it contains about forty trees of various sizes, in rather dry woods. Below this place it is not recorded, and on the lower Cape, according to Messrs. F. S. Collins and W. P. Rich, it is not to be found. In this connection it is interesting to know that according to Mourt's Relation the Pilgrims found the holly growing in the open woods at Provincetown when they first landed, Nov. 11, 1620, and later on Dec. 18 at Plymouth, where it is still known. It is also found as a rare plant on Nantucket. Removal of the woods and frequent fires, as well as the desire for Christmas greens have doubtless contributed to its disappearance.

In Rhode Island the holly is abundant at Tiverton, and occurs also at Little Compton, Prudence and Conanicut Islands, South Scituate, Coventry, and North and South Kingston, all in the southern third of the State.

In Connecticut the species is decidedly rare, according to the State Flora, (1910) occurring only in Waterford, Milford and Wolcott. The authors say: "Escaped from cultivation or possibly native."

The range of *Ilex glabra* is very similar. At Magnolia swamp in Gloucester, there is a very vigorous colony of it, growing with *Smilacina trifolia* and covering a considerable area. It is also reported from Wenham and Rockport. Its next appearances are at the Blue Hills, Hingham and Cohasset, thence southward to Buzzard's Bay and Nantucket in the same area as *Ilex opaca*, but much more abundant. It is decidedly abundant on Cape Cod, where it has escaped fires because of its swampy habitat, and it flourishes even in Provincetown. In Middleboro and Marion I have seen bushes 1.5 m. in height, but it is usually much smaller.

In Rhode Island it is reported from Tiverton and from four stations in Washington county. In Connecticut there are four stations in New London county, and one at Guilford, some thirty miles to the west.

I have found no records from Martha's Vineyard for either species, and they are not known on Block Island.

For *Ilex opaca* this area forms the extreme northeastern limit of the species, which follows the coastal plain south to Florida, and extends inland to Missouri. It prefers moist soil in woods, but is also frequent southward on dry mountain slopes.

Ilex glabra finds its extreme northeastern limit in southwestern Nova Scotia growing in the southern counties as far east as Halifax,[1] but there is a gap of 275 miles between there and Cape Ann, with no intervening stations. It follows the coast southward in swamps, moist sand, and low woods, to Florida and Louisiana.

It is very interesting that these two allied species, with somewhat different soil-preferences, should be so evenly distributed over the same area in southeastern New England. Along with them here and there are over a hundred other coastal-plain plants, many of which find their northeastern limits here. The waterwashed glacial debris found in these New England sand-plains and kames is sufficiently like the recent coastal-plain further south, to furnish similar soil conditions, while further north on the New England coast these conditions disappear, and the plants with them.

For information in regard to these ranges I am indebted to Dr. E. W. Sinnott, Messrs. A. C. Bent, S. N. F. Sanford and Professors J. F. Collins and M. L. Fernald.

Hingham, Massachusetts.

The West Virginian Variety of Polygonum cilinode.— *Polygonum cilinode* Michx., one of the commonest plants of the Canadian Zone, ranges from Newfoundland to Athabasca and south into the Great Lake states, the mountains of Pennsylvania, and the cooler districts of New England. South of the Pennsylvania mountains it is very rare, but it has been reported as far south as North Carolina. The only material seen by the writer, however, from south of Pennsylvania is Greenman's No. 346 from Spruce Knob, West Virginia, where the plant is localized, as indicated by the citation in Millspaugh's *Living Flora of West Virginia* (1913) of no other station in the state. But besides its isolation on Spruce Knob, the West Virginian

[1] Macoun, Cat. Can. Pl. pt. 3, 503; Proc. & Trans. N. S. Inst. Sci. viii. 107.

plant has other points of interest. Throughout its continuous range in British America and the northern states *P. cilinode* has the stems always puberulent and the lower surfaces of the leaves densely pilose; but the Spruce Knob plant has its stems and leaves quite glabrous, or the leaves rarely with a very sparse pubescence on the veins beneath. The fruiting calyx is slightly shorter than is common in the northern typical form, 3.5–4 mm. long; in the northern plant ordinarily 4–5 mm. long. And the achenes of the Spruce Knob plant are broadly trigonous-obovoid or -subglobose and scarcely 3 mm. long; in the northern pubescent plant usually more ellipsoid and from 3–4 mm. long.

These characters, if constant, would indicate that the Spruce Knob plant is specifically distinct; but an examination of 86 sheets of true *Polygonum cilinode* shows that the pubescent plant sometimes has the calyx and the achene quite as short and plump as in the West Virginian material. It seems wisest, then, to designate the southern plant as

POLYGONUM CILINODE Michx., var. **laevigatum**, n. var., caule glabro; foliis glabris vel subtus sparse pilosis: achaeniis late trigonis obovoideis vel -subglobosis vix 3 mm. longis — WEST VIRGINIA: Spruce Knob, 14 September, 1904, *J. M. Greenman*, no. 346 (TYPE in Gray Herb.).— M. L. FERNALD, Gray Herbarium.

AN UNWELCOME INVADER.— Another species of the weedy annual brome grasses has entered the Manual region. This is *Bromus villosus* Forsk. (*B. maximus* Desf.) which has appeared along the railway at College Park, Maryland. Specimens were brought to the National Herbarium by Mr. S. D. Gray in early June, and more sent later by Professor J. B. S. Norton. This is one of the group of Mediterranean species that today cover the overgrazed slopes and valleys of southern California, often in favorable situations growing as thickly as a field of grain. *Bromus villosus* and its variety *Gussonei* Aschers. & Graebn. like their allies, *B. madritensis* L. and *B. rubens* L., are injurious to grazing animals, the long scabrous awns of the ripened florets, scattered by the wind over the pastures, penetrating the tender parts of the nose and mouth, often causing sores. If this species spreads as rapidly in the eastern states as has its comparatively inoffensive little relative *B. tectorum* it will probably soon be one of our worst annual weeds.— AGNES CHASE, Department of Agriculture.

The glabrous-leaved Sweet Gale.— In his *Monographie des Myricacées* Dr. Auguste Chevalier treats the Sweet Gale, *Myrica Gale* L. as a distinct genus *Gale* and divides the circumpolar *G. palustris* (Lam.) Chevalier into many varieties, six of which he credits to North America. Most of the varieties seem to be of minor importance, based upon the toothing of leaves and slight variations of pubescence, but one, his var. *subglabra* is better distinguished and has a well defined geographic range. In typical *Myrica Gale* the leaves are more or less pubescent, at least on the veins beneath. This shrub, with pubescent leaves, is rather generally distributed in the cooler regions of Eurasia and North America. The most pronounced departure from it is the strictly North American

Myrica Gale L., var. **subglabra** (Chevalier), n. comb. *Gale palustris*, var. *subglabra* Chevalier, Mon. Myric. 185 [reprint, 101] (1901). Leaves glabrous or glabrate throughout.

Chevalier cites only four stations: in Labrador, Newfoundland, Quebec and Maine; but var. *subglabra* is widely distributed from Labrador to Lake Huron, south to New Jersey and Pennsylvania, in some areas apparently quite replacing the more widely distributed pubescent-leaved shrub.— M. L. Fernald, Gray Herbarium.

Panicum wrightianum in Long Island.— After the publication of the revision of Panicum by Hitchcock & Chase (Contr. U. S. Nat. Herb. Vol. 15. 1910) we found the name *Panicum deminutivum* Peck (Bull. N. Y. State Mus. 116. Bot. Vol. **10**: 27. 1907) had been overlooked. Through the kindness of Dr. H. D. House, Assistant State Botanist of New York, we have received a portion of the type specimen. It proves to be *Panicum wrightianum* Scribn. The specimen was collected by Professor C. H. Peck, Wading River ("Little Pond"), N. Y. This Long Island station is the only one known in New York for this species. It was found in Barnstable, Massachusetts in 1910 by C. H. Knowlton and in 1911 by E. W. Sinnott.— Agnes Chase, Bureau of Plant Industry, Washington, D. C.

Station for fruiting Euphorbia Cyparissias.— On the west shore of New Haven Harbor, but within the borders of West Haven, is an extensive station where *Euphorbia Cyparissias* fruits freely.

The species grows in colonies on a slightly elevated sandy plain, over an area which I should estimate to be more than twenty-five acres. These colonies are very numerous and some of them are quite large. On June 9, 1914, practically all the colonies were loaded with fruit. I collected from this station in 1903 but the specimens were destroyed by accident a few years later. Plants collected in June, 1914, have been deposited in the Gray Herbarium. The West Haven Station, reported by Mr. A. E. Blewitt (RHODORA **15**:43), is apparently distinct from the present station, as extensive salt marshes, and a level tract on which the species does not occur in noticeable quantity, intervene between the two stations.— R. W. WOODWARD, New Haven, Connecticut.

Vol. 16, no. 188, including pages 137 to 152, was issued 17 August, 1914.

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